



## Summary of standards changes

EU Equivalent documents updated Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 – version 1.3

This document summarises the changes made to the Soil Association EU Equivalent standards documents for version 1.3, including a recent amendment to the EU Organic Regulation.

If you have any questions, please contact the Standards Team by emailing [standards@soilassociation.org](mailto:standards@soilassociation.org).

### Update to the EU Organic Regulation

An amendment to the EU organic regulation\* has been published and comes into effect on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. This relates to import/export from third countries (outside the EU) and clarifies that the certificate of inspection (COI) must be issued by the certification body of the exporter before the consignment leaves the third country of export or origin.

Due to feedback received regarding the difficulty of such a quick turnaround, the European Commission has allowed some of the transport information on the COI to be filled out provisionally at the time of issue. However all information must be completed within 10 days of issuing the COI and, in any case, before endorsement of the COI from the importing authority. This is currently within the guidance of the relevant standard, until a further EU amendment makes it officially part of the standard (6.8.6).

\*New EU regulation 2020/25 amends EC 1235/2008.

### Consolidated Edits to Soil Association Organic Standards

The changes outlined below have been applied to the relevant standards documents which are: **farming & growing and food & drink**. In this document we have not included small edits that have been made to formatting, grammar and spelling. These changes include the recent EU regulation update as well as general edits to the standards guidance.

Key to text changes: (~~strikethrough~~ = delete; underlined = new wording; normal text = no change)

## Changes to Food and Drink Standards

### **6.8.6 Certificates of Inspection**

1. All organic products imported into the EU must be accompanied by an original endorsed Certificate of Inspection (COI) issued in the third country.
2. The endorsed COI must accompany goods to the premises of first consignee and then must be kept by the importer for at least two years.
3. The first consignee or importer (where relevant) can make a copy of the COI in order to fulfil the record keeping requirements listed in 6.8.9, provided it is printed or stamped 'COPY' or 'DUPLICATE'.

*(EC) 834/2007 Art. 33*

*(EC) 1235/2008 Art. 13*



COIs need to be issued and endorsed (signed and stamped in box 14) by the certification body of the exporter and need to be available at the EU port of entry for further endorsement by the member state authority.

### **Electronic Certification of Inspection for the import of organic products into the EU**

COIs are sometimes referred to as 'transaction certificates'.

The new system of electronic certificate for imports of organic products became compulsory on 20 October 2017. The electronic certificate aims to enhance traceability of imported organic products and reduce potential fraud. It also aims to reduce the administrative burden for operators and authorities, and provides statistical data on organic imports. You can find out more at

[https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/electronic-certificate\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/electronic-certificate_en)

Importers, and exporters in the country of origin, must register for a TRACES NT account. This is the electronic system used by the European Commission to issue and monitor all COIs.

According to the EC organic regulation the certificate of inspection must be issued by the certification body of the exporter before the consignment leaves the country of export. The certification body will carry out the necessary documentary checks before signing box 18. However, Box 13, Box 16 and Box 17 of the COI may be filled in with the provisional information available at the time of issuing the COI. Final transport documents must be included by the certification body within 10 days from the issuance of the COI and, in any case, before endorsement of the COI from the importing authority. So it is important to check that your exporter is aware of this and able to meet this requirement to ensure you do not experience any problems on import.

Control bodies and control authorities will be able to update the information in Boxes 13, 16 and 17 and upload the final transport documents in TRACES after the

signature of Box 18 and before the COI is endorsed by the Member State (in Box 20).

In the UK, the Port Health Authority (PHA) is responsible for checking documentation of organic produce at the port of arrival. They have the authority to stop entry of organic product not accompanied by a valid COI and the goods may be held at port or lose their organic status. The PHA checks that the information on the COI matches with the goods being imported and other documents associated with the shipment e.g. the Airway Bill or Bill of Landing. If the information is correct they endorse the COI (they complete box 20 on the form) & the goods are allowed to enter the EU as organic.

If products are imported without the endorsed COI then the competent authority will not allow them to be endorsed retrospectively. If you do not have an endorsed COI for each consignment, the product may lose its organic status.

Whilst the exporter is responsible for getting the COI issued and endorsed by their certification body before the product is exported to the EU, it is the importer's responsibility to ensure that the valid COI is presented at port for each consignment. You need to ensure that each section of the COI is endorsed by the relevant party and that you retain the stamped originals for a minimum of two years. If you or the first consignee make a copy of the COI then it must be marked as 'COPY' or 'DUPLICATE'.

Any products without original COIs may lose organic status. UK Port Health Authorities charge for endorsing COIs. Please check with the PHA at your proposed port of arrival for details of their costs. Some certification bodies also charge their licensees for issuing COIs, however the Soil Association does not charge for this service.

First consignee means the natural or legal person to whom the imported consignment is delivered who will receive it for further preparation and/or marketing.

Changes to Farming and Growing Standards

**2.6.3. Permitted pesticides and plant protection products**

All substances listed in this table must comply at least with the conditions for use as specified in the Annex of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011. More restrictive conditions for use for organic production are specified in the second column of the table.

(EC) 834/2007 Art. 16(1)(a)

(EC) 889/2008 Annex II

Name of product	Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use
<b>Substances of plant or animal origin</b>	
Allium sativum (Garlic extract)	
Azadirachtin extracted from <i>Azadirachta indica</i> (Neem tree)	
Beeswax	Only as pruning agent/wound protectant
COS-OGA	
Hydrolysed proteins excluding gelatine	
Laminarin	Kelp must be either grown organically according to standard 15.7.4 (Art. 6d) or harvested in a sustainable way according to standard 15.7.3 (Art. 6c) of the Soil Association seaweed standards.
Maltodextrin	
Pheromones	Only in traps and dispensers
Plant oils	All uses authorised, except herbicide.
Pyrethrins	Only from plant origin
Quassia extracted from <i>Quassia amara</i>	Only as an insecticide, repellent
Repellents by smell of animal or plant origin/sheep fat	Only on non-edible parts of the crop and where crop material is not ingested by sheep or goats
<i>Salix</i> spp. Cortex (aka willow bark extract)	
Terpenes (eugenol, geraniol and thymol)	
<b>Basic substances</b>	
Basic substances based on food	Only those basic substances within the meaning of Article 23(1) of <i>Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009</i> that are covered by the definition of ‘foodstuff’ in Article 2 of <i>Regulation (EC) No 178/2002</i> and have plant or animal origin.

	<p>Substances not to be used as herbicides, but only for the control of pests and diseases.</p> <p>Basic substances are substances which are useful in plant protection, but are not predominantly used for this purpose. Many of them have traditionally been used in organic farming and include numerous foodstuffs of plant or animal origin.</p> <p>Substances that fall under this category are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecithins</li> <li>• Sucrose</li> <li>• Fructose</li> <li>• Vinegar</li> <li>• Whey</li> <li>• <i>Equisetum arvense</i> L.</li> <li>• Chitosan hydrochloride (Obtained from sustainable fisheries or organic aquaculture)</li> </ul> <p>Contact your Certification Officer for more information</p>
<b>Name of product</b>	<b>Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use</b>
<b>Micro-organisms or substances produced by or derived from micro-organisms</b>	
Micro-organisms	Not from GMO origin
Spinosad	
Cerevisane	
<b>Other substances</b>	
Aluminium silicate (Kaolin)	
Calcium hydroxide	Fungicide, only in fruit trees, including nurseries, to control <i>Nectria galligena</i>
Carbon dioxide	
<p>Copper compounds in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• copper hydroxide</li> <li>• copper oxychloride</li> <li>• copper oxide</li> <li>• Bordeaux mixture</li> <li>• tribasic copper sulphate</li> </ul>	<p><b>Guidance</b></p> <p><u>In compliance with PPP legislation you may use a maximum of 4kg/ha in any one year provided that over 7 years you do not exceed 28kg/ha.</u></p>
Diammonium phosphate	Only as attractant in traps

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Ethylene	
Fatty acids	All uses authorised, except herbicide
Ferric phosphate (iron (III) orthophosphate)	Preparations to be surface-spread between cultivated plants.
Hydrogen peroxide	
Kieselgur (diatomaceous earth)	
Lime sulphur (calcium polysulphide)	
Paraffin oil	
Potassium and sodium hydrogen carbonate (aka potassium/sodium bicarbonate)	
Pyrethroids (only deltamethrin or lambda-cyhalothrin)	Only in traps with specific attractants; only against <i>Bactrocera oleae</i> and <i>Ceratitis capitata</i> Wied
Quartz sand	
Sodium chloride	All uses authorised, except herbicide
Sulphur	